

If you are a CalPERS member who served in the military you may be able to purchase this time as CalPERS service.

Military Service Credit

If you are a current or retired CalPERS member through employment with the State, University of California, or California State University, or if you are a current, former, or retired employee of a CalPERS-covered school or public agency employer that contracts for this option, you may purchase a **maximum** of four years of military service credit. Because purchase of this service credit may be costly, you should consider it carefully. You can use the on-line Retirement Planning Calculator on the CalPERS web site (www.calpers.ca.gov) to see how this additional service may impact your benefits.

If you were granted a military leave of absence, entered military active duty within 90 days of leaving your CalPERS-covered employment, and returned to CalPERS-covered employment (or were placed on a State civil service reemployment list) within six months of your discharge date, service credit will be posted to your account at no cost. If you returned to employment after the six-month period, you will be required to pay a portion of the cost. There are no limitations on the amount of time that can be credited.

Who's Eligible?

You **CAN** purchase military service credit if you're:

- a current or retired State or school member of CalPERS (see exceptions below); or
- a current or retired employee of a CalPERS-covered employer that contracts for this option;

You **CANNOT** purchase military service credit if you:

- are receiving military retirement pay based on 20 years' active military service;
- are employed as a *safety member* with the Los Angeles Community College District; or
- have received military service credit in any *other* retirement system.

What's Required?

CURRENT State and school members must:

- have served in active duty military at least one year; and
- have a minimum of one year of earned CalPERS service for each year of military service credit requested (4-year maximum).

RETIRED State and school members must have:

- served in active duty military at least one year;
- retired with at least one year of CalPERS service credit for each year of military service credit requested;
- retired on or after December 31, 1981; and
- retired within 120 days of separation from a qualifying employer.

CURRENT or **FORMER** members of a CalPERS-covered employer that contracts for this option:

- must have served in active duty military; and
- may be eligible to purchase up to an *additional* six months of service credit.

RETIRED members of a CalPERS-covered employer that contracts for this option must:

- have served in active duty military; and
- have retired within 120 days of separation from a qualifying employer.

If you are *already* retired, the increase in benefits will be effective once your election is received and will *not* be retroactive to your retirement date.

What's the Cost?

State and School Members

The cost to purchase this service credit is calculated using a "present value" method, which is based on a pay rate which would provide the best estimate of the potential future final compensation figure usable at retirement. We look at the projected retirement benefit increase you can expect to receive from this additional service credit (at retirement, disability, death, or other termination from employment). Then, we convert that to a lump sum cost in today's dollars.

Determining the increase to your future benefits involves a number of actuarial assumptions, including projected age at retirement, life expectancy, and the probability that some may never receive a service retirement benefit but instead become disabled, die, or terminate their CalPERS membership. These probabilities are the same assumptions used to ensure all our benefits are adequately funded.

The actuarial tables used in this process are updated as needed due to existing benefit changes, new benefits mandated by law, changes in retirement assumptions to reflect our current best estimate of retirement patterns, or other actuarial factors.

Remember, your election to purchase service credit is irrevocable. Once your election purchase is processed, any future changes to these assumption factors will not affect the cost of your service credit purchase.

State and school members can use the on-line Service Credit Cost Estimator on the CalPERS web site (www.calpers.ca.gov) to get an idea of the cost of purchasing this service. Because the benefits provided by public agency employers vary, the Estimator cannot do these calculations.

What's Next?

Gather your military service information. Then complete the request form. In all cases, you must submit supporting documentation (i.e. copy of Military Discharge Documents, DD-214, Certification of Military Service record, etc.) to CalPERS for all active duty periods, along with the request form. You may obtain a copy of your discharge document from:

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

You can also complete and mail in Standard Form 180, available on their web site at www.nara.gov/regional/mprsf180.html.



Request for Service Credit Information Military Service

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf: (916) 795-3240 • (888) CalPERS (225-7377)

Section 1

If we have provided cost information to you in the past for this service credit, check the "Yes" box and indicate the date your request was submitted. If you have submitted a retirement application, check the "Yes" box and indicate your planned retirement date.

If you were employed by a CalPERS-covered employer and were granted a leave of absence to enter the military, check the "yes" box and indicate your employer.

Information About You

Have you requested this cost information before? ☐ No ☐ Yes, date requested _____
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Have you submitted a retirement application? ☐ No ☐ Yes, retirement date is _____
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Were you employed by a CalPERS-covered employer and granted a leave of absence

to enter the military? ☐ No ☐ Yes, _____
Employer

Name Social Security Number

Former Name (if applicable) Current Employer

Address

City State ZIP Daytime Phone

Section 2

List your active duty military service dates from your Military Certification.

Military Active Duty Service Dates (attach certification)

Armed Forces Branch Enlistment Date (mm/dd/yyyy) Discharge Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Armed Forces Branch Enlistment Date (mm/dd/yyyy) Discharge Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Armed Forces Branch Enlistment Date (mm/dd/yyyy) Discharge Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Section 3

Sign and date the request form. Make a copy for your records.

Attach a copy of your military discharge documents for all active duty dates (DD 214, Certification of Military Service Records, etc.)

Mail the original request form and copy of military discharge documents to the CalPERS address listed below.

Certification

I hereby certify that the above information is true and correct.

Signature Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Mail to:

CalPERS Member Services Division • P.O. Box 4000, Sacramento, California 95812-4000